

State of Connecticut
Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Model Policy to Train
Drug Recognition Experts in State Law Enforcement

1. Purpose

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), in conjunction with the Highway Safety Office within the Department of Transportation (DOT), shall determine the minimum number of police officers to be certified as Drug Recognition Experts for each law enforcement unit. Not later than April 1, 2022, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) shall promulgate a model policy to ensure that enough police officers become certified drug recognition experts to meet the minimum number established by POSTC and DOT.

2. Definitions

- A. "ARIDE" means a program developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Technical Advisory Panel, which focuses on impaired driving enforcement education for police officers, or any successor to such program.
- B. "DRE" means Drug Recognition Expert which is a person certified by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as having met all requirements of the International Drug Evaluation and Classification Program.
- C. "DWI Detection" course means any basic training or in-service driving/operating while impaired detection course that has a wet lab component providing detailed explanations of the evaluation procedures with careful demonstration of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) on subjects.
- D. "Wet Lab" means officers train on live subjects in a controlled classroom environment. The live subjects have consumed various amounts of alcohol in a controlled setting. Officers then perform Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) on the subjects.
- E. "SFST" means Standardized Field Sobriety Test which encompasses a battery of three tests administered and evaluated in a standardized manner; horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN) walk and turn and one-leg stand test.

3. Policy

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council, in conjunction with the Highway Safety Office within the Department of Transportation, will review DRE minimum recommendation reports submitted by each Law Enforcement Unit on January 1, 2022 to

determine the minimum number of police officers to be certified as drug recognition experts.

Not later than July 1, 2022, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, in conjunction with the Highway Safety Office within the Department of Transportation, shall submit to the Governor and Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the minimum number of DRE's determined. The council and office shall update and submit such determination every three years to the Governor and Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, members from the Police Officer Standards Training Field Services Division, will send an annual training needs survey to each Law Enforcement Unit gathering information to determine if enough DRE training programs are available to meet the demands consistent with the minimum number of drug recognition experts determined.

Not later than July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, each law enforcement unit shall report DWI Detection, ARIDE and DRE training needs to the Council, using the annual training needs survey promulgated by the Police Officers Standards and Training Field Services Division.

Not later than January 1, 2025, and every three years thereafter, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and the Highway Safety Office within the Department of Transportation, shall jointly review and update the training plan to ensure adequate ARIDE and DRE opportunities are available for law enforcement units in the state.

4. Procedure

To participate in a DRE training program, officers must meet certain eligibility criteria, including but not limited to: (1) completion of DWI Detection course which includes a wet lab component and; (2) completion of a two-day course in ARIDE.

The Police Officer Standards and Training Field Services Division, in conjunction with the Highway Safety Office within the Department of Transportation (DOT), shall jointly review and update the training plan every three years to ensure enough DWI Detection and ARIDE courses are available to meet the demands of drug recognition experts determined.